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HOME + LIFE



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Carpenters training academy reopens after bouncing back from recession

By Gabriela Rico
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

After a nine-year hiatus, the local Carpenters Training Center has reopened with over 100 participants getting hands-on training to enter the booming construction industry.

Operated by the Southwest Local Carpenters Union, the academy closed during the downturn and apprentices had to attend classes in Phoenix.

“After the recession in 2009,

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Visit swcarpenters.org for more information on the program.

we couldn’t keep the training center open, and the community lost us as a valuable resource,” said Fabian Sandez, president of Local 1912. “Today, we’re here celebrating because we’re proud to be back.”

Participants are sponsored by

member companies to attend the four-year academy, and the majority of schoolwork is in the field. Class time is for regulation and certification instruction, Sandez said.

Graduates leave the program debt-free and almost always with a job waiting.

The center has seen a mix of students enroll.

“We have targeted training

See **CARPENTERS, A2**



KELLY PRESNELL / ARIZONA DAILY STAR
Apprentice Rodolfo Felix practices sinking drywall screws quickly, using a drill on a target wall at the Carpenters Training Center.



MAMTA POPAT / ARIZONA DAILY STAR
Helen Acedo, who died Feb. 8 at her home, got a kiss from her husband, Richard, during her 85th birthday celebration on Feb. 2.

Making the end easier: Planning for death softens path, experts say

By Carmen Duarte
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Helen Acedo faced death head-on. At 85, she spent the last days of her life on her own terms with the support and love of her family.

Six months ago, Helen was diagnosed with kidney cancer, and one kidney was removed. However, the cancer spread and she decided not to pursue treatment, said son

Rick Acedo.

Helen, a native Tucsonan who was born in her mother’s home on West Simpson Street in Barrio Viejo, was raised Catholic, and her deep love for God and the saints taught her not to fear death.

She understood it as being connected to the cycle of life. She began planning her funeral long ago, before her illness. It was only natural, like

for many in her generation.

START A CONVERSATION

Meanwhile, end-of-life care experts applaud the Acedo family for listening to Helen and helping care for her to the end, in her home, the way she wanted.

But, they say, not enough families are discussing death, or the end-of-life care treatment that loved ones would

like. Doctors and health-care workers also are not doing enough to start the conversation with their patients, they say.

In response, the Lovell Foundation and the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona partnered to award nearly \$3 million to be given out over two and four years

See **END OF LIFE, A4**

Tucson may pick up tab for water lines to new businesses

By Tony Davis
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A greened-up proposal for Tucson to foot the tab for water lines to new employers has heightened support for the package from previously skeptical City Council members.

On Wednesday, the council will consider a water infrastructure incentive package for the second time in six months. Like the earlier package, it would be a major departure from customary city policies requiring that growth pay for itself.

Under the proposal, the city would pay up to \$2.5 million a year to build water pipelines and other projects helping out new, non-retail employers.

The incentives would go only to developers who build projects in areas that city government has targeted for future industrial, office and warehouse development. The areas where new development would be eligible for incentives are mostly on the far south and southeast sides, generally near existing residential and commercial areas that are considered economically stressed.

Today the city typically requires both residential and business developers to pay for the water line extensions in the name of avoiding what many critics see as a subsidy for growth. But the new proposal comes amid criticism from some business groups and political conservatives that the City Council isn’t being friendly enough to development.

A similar proposal was delayed by the council six months ago after several council members complained it lacked teeth to force new employers to conserve water or energy or take other steps toward environmental sustainability.

While the earlier proposal would have given developers incentive bonuses for environmentally

See **WATER LINES, A2**

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